

REMARKS

Prior to addressing the amendments set forth hereinabove, applicant respectfully requests the correction of a typographical error in the spelling of the given name of the first named inventor. The inventor's correct name (as set forth in the originally filed application and executed Declaration and Power of Attorney) is Laurent Pouget. Note that, in all previous communications from the U.S. Patent Office, the "r" has been omitted from the inventor's given name.

Applicants are pleased to note that claims 1-10, 14 and 15 have been allowed.

To place this case in condition for being passed to issue and to obtain the full scope of protection to which the applicants are entitled, the rejected claims 11-13 have been carefully amended and new claim 16 added. In addition, the drawings have been corrected to show the shielding skin "P" (described in the specification, as filed, and originally illustrated only in FIG 1).

It is respectfully submitted that claims 11-13 and 16 are allowable over the cited art for the following reasons.

While the Examiner has rejected claims 11 and 13 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macauley in view of Takeuchi, it should be noted that amended claim 11 recites *inter alia*:

*...at least one bumper cross-member having a U-shaped cross-section and forming an uppermost substantially horizontal face of the front structure...
a plurality of reinforcing ribs on said uppermost face...*

The Takeuchi patent discloses a bumper for use in an automobile, said bumper having no

In the Drawings:

Substitute the enclosed drawing sheets for those on file (the sheets contain shielding skin “P” in FIGS. 2 and 4, as well as in FIG. 1).

reinforcing ribs on an uppermost face of the bumper cross-member. The Macauley patent discloses an assembly for an automobile, the assembly having ribs between two beams. Those ribs are located below the uppermost beam and thus are not located on an uppermost face of the assembly. Furthermore, the Macauley reference does not disclose nor does it suggest a bumper cross-member having a U-shaped cross-section. Thus, Takeuchi and Macauley do not and cannot anticipate the present invention as defined in amended claim 11.

The amended claim 13 recites *inter alia*:

...the grille being situated between the bumper cross-member and the projecting portion.

In the Macauley reference, the grille is located above the uppermost beam. Furthermore, in Macauley, the assembly has no bumper cross-member above the grille. Thus, Macauley does not and cannot anticipate the present invention as defined in amended claim 13.

As to claim 12, rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Darrin in view of Takeuchi, please note that claim 12 recites *inter alia*:

...said bulges each having a substantially circular base, ...

The Darrin patent discloses a bumper assembly comprising two projections, each having an elongated base perpendicular to the beam. Clearly, the Darrin reference does not disclose nor does it suggest bulges having a substantially circular base. Thus, Darrin cannot anticipate the present invention as recited in claim 12. Moreover, the Takeuchi patent does not disclose bulges with a circular base. Clearly, the Takeuchi reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of the Darrin teachings.

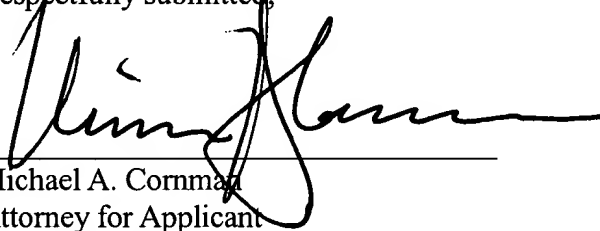
As to new claim 16, it recites *inter alia*:

...shock absorbers having more than two egg-shaped bulges situated along a length of the front wall...

The Darrin patent discloses a bumper assembly comprising precisely two projections. However, the Darrin patent does not disclose nor does it suggest the use of more than two egg-shaped bulges. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Darrin does not anticipate the present invention as defined in claim 16.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 11-13 and 16 are allowable along with claims 1-10, 14 and 15. An early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Mailing Date: September 21, 2004



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